



RECEIVED

MAR 13 2003

TECH CENTER 1600/2900

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Art Unit : 1621  
Examiner : Alan M. Siegel  
Serial No. : 09/648,248  
Filed : August 25, 2000  
Inventors : Masashi Kato  
: Yasuharu Kato  
: Koichi Okada  
Title : METHOD FOR  
: PRODUCING AROMATIC  
: COMPOUND ISOMERS

  
038511

PATENT &amp; TRADEMARK OFFICE

Docket No.: 1382-00

Confirmation No.: 5914

Dated: February 28, 2003

#12/C  
3/14/03  
JmerAMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

In response to the Official Action dated September 3, 2002, kindly amend the Application as follows:

Marked up Version in the Claims

1. (Twice Amended) A method for producing an aromatic compound isomer substituted with alkyl group(s) and/or halogen atom(s), through adsorptive separation by the use of a zeolite-containing adsorbent and a desorbent, wherein the desorbent is, after having been processed for removing impurities selected from the group consisting of water, hydrochloric acid, phenols, dimers of aromatic compounds, unsaturated hydrocarbon-containing compounds and oxygen-containing compounds from it by a method selected from distillation, purging, or absorption to a solid absorbent to achieve a level below 1,000 ppm by weight, supplied to the adsorptive separation step.